

What we heard Traditional Owners

We interviewed two Traditional Owner groups and one Aboriginal Cooperative.

Concerns

Traditional Owners would like an opportunity to provide cultural advice early in our planning. Restrictions with COVID-19 has impacted the ability to meet and hold events, which has limited some involvement with their own communities.

Next Steps

Feedback provided by our Traditional Owners will inform our Pricing Submission. We will continue to build relationships and partnerships beyond this pricing period.

Our region overlays the lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Barapa Barapa, Taungurung and Yorta Yorta Nations.

Taungurung are interested in joint management arrangements for Coliban Water owned land.

Aboriginal businesses should continue to be given tender opportunities. Ongoing work rather than project based work is preferable.

We have a strong established relationship with Djaara (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation).

Traditional Owners have the right to be consulted on decisions that impact on their Traditional Lands.

We all need to access water and have rights to access to water. Traditional Owners are no different. All dealing with the same water that falls onto Country.

Intergenerational Debt

Investment needs to meet the needs of the region. The cost should be shared over the generations. No generation should be disadvantaged. Supporting those who need help while ensuring that those who 'can' meet the cost of climate adaptation 'do' pay.

Community Contributions

Need to support waterway health and the environment overall and understand cultural values; and provide access to water for cultural purposes. Educate customers to understand and appreciate water, display mindfulness in usage, and support local and Aboriginal businesses to provide local jobs.

Protecting Against Drought

We must work together to get better ecological outcomes to find a balance between urbanisation and maintaining healthy waterways. Significant action and investment are needed now for future use of Country.

Supporting Customers Experiencing Vulnerability

Continue to support customers who need it and engage with them to identify and remove barriers to accessing support. Invest in educating customers to manage their own account and usage. A significant step to building trust is to meet with them in place, and develop trust with the leadership group of that community.

